

**ANNUAL MEETING
MENOMINEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
April 12, 2010 - 5:00 P.M.
TRIBAL OFFICE BOARDROOM**

1. Chairman Cox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Roll call was taken with a quorum present. MEMBERS PRESENT: Douglas Cox, Craig Corn, Renita Wilber, Darren Zhuckkahosee, Jeremy Pyatskowit, and Gary Frechette. MEMBERS ABSENT: None. ALSO PRESENT: Norbert Miller, Michelle Frechette, Donald Reiter, Walter Cox, Jeremy Weso, and Natasha Miller (Recorder).

2. Moment of Silence.

Chairman Cox requested a moment of silence.

3. Special Rules for Meeting.

Chairman Cox reminded the meeting that each individual is allowed three minutes to speak on an issue. If a new issue is brought up then the individual is allowed to speak for an additional three minutes on that issue as well.

4. Commission Activity Report.

Chairman Cox gave a report on what occurred throughout the past year in regards to the Conservation Commission. He was not a member of the Commission for some of the year so he may need to address others for clarification. He will also inform the public of the plans for next year.

In April 2009 the Legislature met with the Conservation Commission in Executive Session. The outcome from that meeting was to move forward into the New Year with the Hunting Regulations (that were eventually passed). The Commission was asked to report back to the Legislature in late April regarding the progress of the Commission on some of those issues. The Commission reported back a numbers if times on different issues.

The Tribal Legislature reappointed Craig Corn and appointed Douglas Cox at the May 6, 2009 regular meeting.

September 2009 the Hunting and Trapping Regulations were forwarded to the Legislature with the urging of the Legislature to review the regulations. The motion was defeated in September of 2009.

October 2009 the Legislature requested that legal services provide a legal opinion within 90 days on the constitutionality of Ordinance 99-01. Chairman Cox stated he does believe to date that the Commission has not heard anything on the status of that opinion. He will keep everyone updated when he hears back from the Legislature.

October of 2009 Eugene Caldwell moved to concur with the recommendations of the Conservation Commission to move forward with the Fishing Regulations for 2010-2012. The Legislature approved the Waterfowl Regulation that is consistent with the hunting regulations.

November the Legislature moved to table the legal opinion that was mentioned earlier on Ordinance 99-01.

February 2010 the Commission moved the Fishing Regulations forward. The Legislature approved those regulations on February 4, 2010. Copies were available at the meeting for the public. To summarize the regulations the biggest change would be the adding of the sturgeon regulations to the body of the fishing regulations themselves. In the past they were separate, the tagging requirement was also lifted.

February 2010 the Commission notified the Legislature that there is a vacant seat. The Legislature moved to have the Enforcement and Resource Protection Committee review the appointment and criteria for Conservation Commission members prior to posting for new members. The Commission has not heard anything back from the Chairman of that Committee.

March 2010 motion was made by Myrna Warrington to concur with the recommendation of the Conservation Commission to approve Dave Grignon's request for 15 sturgeons for the sturgeon feast being held on May 1st. This request is in accordance to Ordinance 99-01 that requires the approval for the fish. That concludes the year to date report.

For the future; the Commission is looking to form a workgroup from some of the entities of the Tribe to review goal 20-22 in the strategic plan (management of our natural resources). The Commission would like to develop a process for making rules and the getting Legislative approval. Chairman Cox spoke with Chairwoman Boivin about the workgroup to start the process. She suggested that the Commission wait until the Legislature is through reviewing Ordinance 99-01.

The Legislature formed an Adhoc committee which consists of Bruce Pecore, David Miller, and Randy Chevalier to look into the issues regarding Ordinance 99-01. The Chairwoman could not give an update on this due to this conversation was held in Executive Session.

The Natural Resources section of the strategic plan is goals 20-22 that involves and effects the Commission. The Commission has asked Walter Cox-Conservation Director to give the Commission updated when the strategic plan workgroup meets and what the outcomes were

The Legislature took the task of reviewing Ordinance 99-01 without input from anyone. The Commission should be moving forward with departments on the plan and not with the Legislature, Goal 21 involves fish and wildlife management and should have departmental input. The Commission can not move forward with any review, amendments, or updates. It's hard to get your work done when the Chairman of the Tribe regulates your meetings.

5. Public Comment on Hunting and Fishing Regulations.

Fishing Regulations

Norbert Miller- *"One thing from the regulations from 2010; you have lakes listed in there for spearing and non-spearing. I think the acreage is less than 50 acres for spearing. They are down to 40 now."*

Douglas Cox- *"It's down to 30 (acres)."*

Norbert Miller- *"Why is the Nahwahquaw Lake allowed to spear on it?"*

Walter Cox- *"It's within that size frame; it does qualify acreage wise."*

Norbert Miller- *"Nahwahquaw and Crowell (Lakes): the only reason I am objecting to that is because I think we should have a stronger stocking program on some of these small lakes. These small lakes are being speared out and I don't know what the count is out there. I think that should be limited to anything down to 20 acres, because if we had a better stocking program where it continues year after year then we can add more fish before we take everything out. It's detrimental to these smaller lakes; you get a lot of people in here spearing these lakes and you are going to get depleted. If you even look at what happened to Lower Bass Lake; I don't think there is any walleyes or northern in there anymore. That Lake is probably a couple hundred acres, but I think this Commission needs to look into that, and I think Mr. Reiter needs to look into that. I would like to emphasis that it should be lowered down until we have a better stocking program and get Mr. Reiter more funding. He is limited on what he can do up here."*

Donald Reiter- *"That is what our rearing ponds are for; to make sure we have that. I think you mean higher acreage and not lower."*

Norbert Miller- *"Yes, I didn't mean to confuse you. I wanted the higher acreage on the lakes for spearing and leave it alone. Hook and line would be better."*

Walter Cox- *"We actively been working on the rearing ponds and have successfully harvested for a couple years now. I have heard Don (Reiter) talking about this and making this a goal and objective to move in that direction. Like Mr. Miller said; we need to restrict spearing on those lakes. We are putting our efforts specifically on walleye. We have to stick a lot of money into stocking all summer long."*

Douglas Cox- *"Let's keep in mind that we are locked into these regulations."*

Jeremy Pyatskowit- *"Question for Walt- Do you actively check bag limits on spears?"*

Walter Cox- *"No, but we will be starting this year."*

Norbert Miller- *"It has been an ongoing thing with Mr. Reiter. He is starting to stock the lakes. That is just a guideline for your goals and objectives for strategic planning, and that's not written in stone. It's a guideline for the Tribe to meet their goals and objectives, but it's not a true guideline, there might be something else that would come up in a different department that they want to do."*

Douglas Cox – *"Here's my point: Norbert- is that things that are in the strategic plan are certainly not typed in stone; nor goals that we are all suppose to diligently abide by every step of the way. A strategic plan is a broader document that should be driving all our other documents that are underneath the strategic plan. There is a huge umbrella that gives us the direction of what the Tribe wants to do with its resources. We certainly don't have any authority over any departments in this Tribe as a Commission, but when it says in the strategies plan that we are all suppose to work together to help better manage the resources, or as this goal says improve fish and wildlife protection through regulation, it names us as a resource and in my understanding, it's my responsibility to make sure that this timeline as identified here gets done. Unless the Tribe turns around and amends the plan to say we have changed our objective there; it's now lets not do fish and wildlife management. That's the only reason why I do that, but they do have a really good program, and they (just as much as anybody) have to look at this plan and say look; the Tribe wants us to improve fish and wildlife through regulation so we will have to report back to the Commission and let them know how we are doing on that, and that's what they do by giving us reports. I think that concern wise, if you look at where it is in a broader perspective, then yes it is not set in stone."*

Norbert Miller- *"I have one more question; you indicated 99-01 is going to be at the next Legislative meeting under closed session."*

Doug Cox- *"Yes."*

Norbert Miller- *"What was the reason for that?"*

Doug Cox- *"I do not know. It's been that way since the Legislature has taken a couple of these motions that I have just read from the last year. They kept them there and obviously my recommendations to involve the Commission have been heard. They continue to assert that this is just a legislative issue and they are going to handle it in whatever fashion they choose to handle it in. Right now all the information is in Executive Session and is not available to the Commission."*

Hunting Regulations

There were no comments on the Hunting Regulations

Chairman Cox opened it up for any general comments.

Norbert Miller- *"There is one lake on here that is not a lake. It says lake and it is open for spearing; it's the Neopit Mill Pond. How did you it ever get in there?"*

Douglas Cox- *"It's larger than thirty acres."*

Norbert Miller- *"How can you allow spearing on trout water?"*

Douglas Cox- *"If you look at the regulations on the section on trout regulations there are special provision and one of them is no spearing of trout is allowed. You have to cognizant of what the regulations states and what they are allowed to do when you are out on those waters exercising your privileges."*

Walter Cox- *"We are moving forward on the transport tag issue. We will bring it up again at the WDNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources) meeting to recognize the Menominee Tribal tags."*

Norbert Miller- *"Do we have tribal members who are on the Board or attend the meetings?"*

Douglas Cox- *"We do have tribal members that attend the meeting and have had tribal members on the Council. These meetings are attended by active hunters and fishermen so they can give their input. If you are interested, you should attend these meetings."*

6. Adjournment.

Motion was made by Renita Wilber to adjourn the meeting. Second was by Darren Zhuckkahosee. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 5-for, 0-opposed, 0-abstentions, and 0-absent.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Natasha Miller, Transcriber/Recorder
Recording Clerk – Receptionist, Chairman's Office